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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Inagaki, et al.

Serial No.: 09/253,048

Filed: February 19, 1999

For: Sony Corporation

Case No.: 9792909-4094

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: A. Markoff

Today's Date: October 1, 2002

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Transmittal Letter

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a Response C to Non-Final Office Action After Filing a CPA.

Also enclosed are:

Return Receipt Postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required, as well as any patent application processing fees associated with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Inventor: Inagaki et al.) Examiner: A. Markoff
Serial No.: 09/253,048)
Title: Cleansing Processing Agent, Cleansing ...)
Atty. Docket No.: 9792909-4094) Group Unit: 1746

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Response C to Non-Final Office Action After Filing a CPA

In response to the Office Action dated 20 March 2002, the applicants respond as follows.

A. In the Claims

Please formally cancel, with the proviso that these claims may be prosecuted in later continuing applications, claims 1-9 and 19 as they were unelected claims.

Please cancel claims 10 to 18, 20 to 24; and amend claim 25, and add new claims 26 to 41.

25. (amended) ~~The cleansing method according to claim 10 wherein said polymer is pulverized before the hydrophilic groups are added by the acid or alkali.~~

A cleansing method, comprising:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent, and introducing an ion group into the cleansing processing agent comprising a polymer having acrylonitrile, and at least one of styrene and conjugate diene as constituent unit and into that are introduced hydrophilic groups by adding an acid or an alkali to the polymer and the polymer being a waste material;

(b) bringing the cleansing processing agent into contact with a material to be cleansed; and adsorbing substances of at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, or amine compound contained in the material.

26. (new) The cleansing method of claim 25, wherein the substances are at least one of metal, ammonia, or amine compounds.